

3. (currently amended) The sustained-release preparation according to claim 2, wherein X is a C<sub>2-4</sub> alkanoyl group which ~~may~~is optionally ~~be~~-substituted by a tetrahydrofurylcarboxamide group.

4. (withdrawn) The sustained-release preparation according to claim 1, wherein X is acetyl.

5. (withdrawn) The sustained-release preparation according to claim 1, wherein the biodegradable polymer is a mixture of (A) a copolymer of glycolic acid and a hydroxycarboxylic acid of the general formula



wherein R represents an alkyl group of 2 to 8 carbon atoms and (B) a polylactic acid.

6. (withdrawn) The sustained-release preparation according to claim 1, wherein X is acetyl, and the biodegradable polymer is a mixture of (A) a copolymer of glycolic acid and a hydroxycarboxylic acid of the general formula



wherein R represents an alkyl group of 2 to 8 carbon atoms and (B) a polylactic acid.

7. (withdrawn) The sustained-release preparation according to claim 5, wherein the copolymer has a weight average molecular weight of about 2,000 to 50,000, as determined by GPC.

8. (withdrawn) The sustained-release preparation according to claim 5, wherein the copolymer has a dispersion value of about 1.2 to 4.0.

9. (withdrawn) The sustained-release preparation according to claim 5, wherein the polylactic acid has a weight average molecular weight of about 1,500 to 30,000 as determined by GPC.
10. (withdrawn) The sustained-release preparation according to claim 5, wherein the polylactic acid has a dispersion value of about 1.2 to 4.0.
11. (previously presented) The sustained-release preparation according to claim 1, wherein the biodegradable polymer is a copolymer of lactic acid and glycolic acid.
12. (currently amended) The sustained-release preparation according to claim 11, wherein the copolymer has a weight average molecular weight of about 5,000 to about 25,000, as determined by GPC.
13. (currently amended) The sustained-release preparation according to claim 11, wherein the copolymer has a dispersion value of about 1.2 to about 4.0.
14. (currently amended) The sustained-release preparation according to claim 1, wherein the proportion of the physiologically active peptide ranges from about 0.01 to about 50% (w/w) based on the biodegradable polymer.
15. (previously presented) The sustained-release preparation according to claim 1, wherein the physiologically active peptide is a LH-RH antagonist.
16. (currently amended) The sustained-release preparation according to claim 1, wherein the physiologically active peptide is
- $$\square_0\text{-CONHCH}_2\text{COD2Na1-D4ClPhe-D3Pal-Ser-NMeTyr-DLys(Nic)-}$$

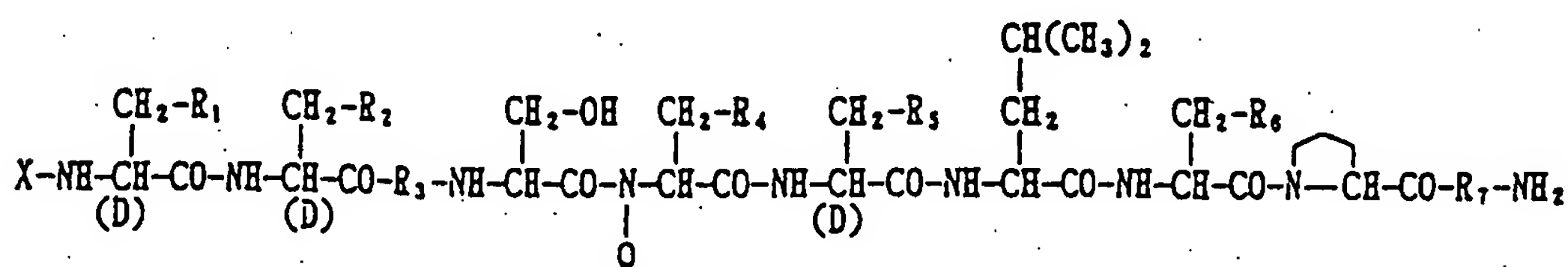
$$\text{Leu-Lys(Nisp)-Pro-DAlaNH}_2$$

or its acetate salt.
17. (withdrawn) The sustained-release preparation according to claim 1, wherein the physiologically active peptide is NAcD2Na1-D4ClPhe-D3Pal-Ser-NMeTyr-DLys(- Nic)-Leu-

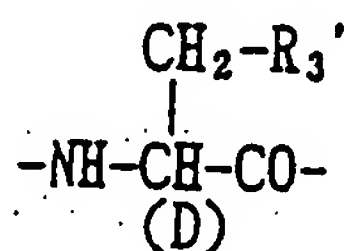
Lys(Nisp)-Pro-DAlaNH<sub>2</sub> or its acetate.

18. (withdrawn) The sustained-release preparation according to claim 1, wherein the physiologically active peptide is NAcD2Nal-D4ClPhe-D3Pal-Ser-Tyr-DhArg(Et<sub>2</sub>)-Leu-hArg(Et<sub>2</sub>)-Pro-DAlaNH<sub>2</sub> or its acetate.

19. (withdrawn) A method of producing a sustained-release preparation which comprises dissolving a physiologically active peptide of the general formula



wherein X represents an acyl group; R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> each represents an aromatic cyclic group; R<sub>3</sub> represents a D-amino acid residue or a group of the formula



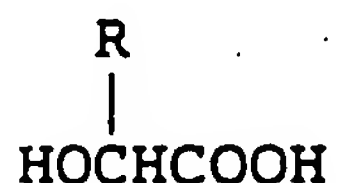
wherein R<sub>3'</sub> is a heterocyclic group; R<sub>5</sub> represents a group of the formula -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-R<sub>5'</sub> wherein n is 2 or 3, and R<sub>5'</sub> is an amino group which may optionally be substituted, an aromatic cyclic group or an O-glycosyl group; R<sub>6</sub> represents a group of the formula -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-R<sub>6'</sub> wherein n is 2 or 3, and R<sub>6'</sub> is an amino group which may optionally be substituted; R<sub>7</sub> represents a D-amino acid residue or an azaglycyl residue; and Q represents hydrogen or a lower alkyl group or a salt thereof and a biodegradable polymer having a terminal carboxyl group in a solvent which is substantially immiscible with water and then removing said solvent.

20. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 19, wherein the biodegradable polymer is a mixture of (A) a copolymer of glycolic acid and a hydroxycarboxylic acid of the general formula



wherein R represents an alkyl group of 2 to 8 carbon atoms and (B) a polylactic acid.

21. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 19, wherein X is acetyl, and the biodegradable polymer is a mixture of (A) a copolymer of glycolic acid and a hydroxycarboxylic acid of the general formula



wherein R represents an alkyl group of 2 to 8 carbon atoms and (B) a polylactic acid.

22. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 19, wherein the biodegradable polymer is a copolymer of lactic acid and glycolic acid.

23. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 19, which comprises dissolving the biodegradable polymer and the physiologically active peptide in a solvent which is substantially immiscible with water and adding the resulting solution to an aqueous medium to provide an O/W emulsion.

24. (withdrawn) A method of producing a sustained-release preparation which comprises dissolving a biodegradable polymer comprising a mixture of (A) a copolymer of glycolic acid and a hydroxycarboxylic acid of the general formula



wherein R represents an alkyl group of 2 to 8 carbon atoms and (B) a polylactic acid and a substantially water-insoluble physiologically active peptide or a salt thereof in a

solvent which is substantially immiscible with water and then removing said solvent.

25. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 24, which further comprises after dissolving the biodegradable polymer and the substantially water-insoluble peptide or salt thereof in the solvent adding the resulting solution to an aqueous medium to provide an O/W emulsion.